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ACTION
COMICS® WEEKLY
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WILD DOG
BREAKS LOOSE!
PLUS: SUPERMAN
BLACK CANARY GREEN LANTERN
NIGHTWING BLACKHAWK

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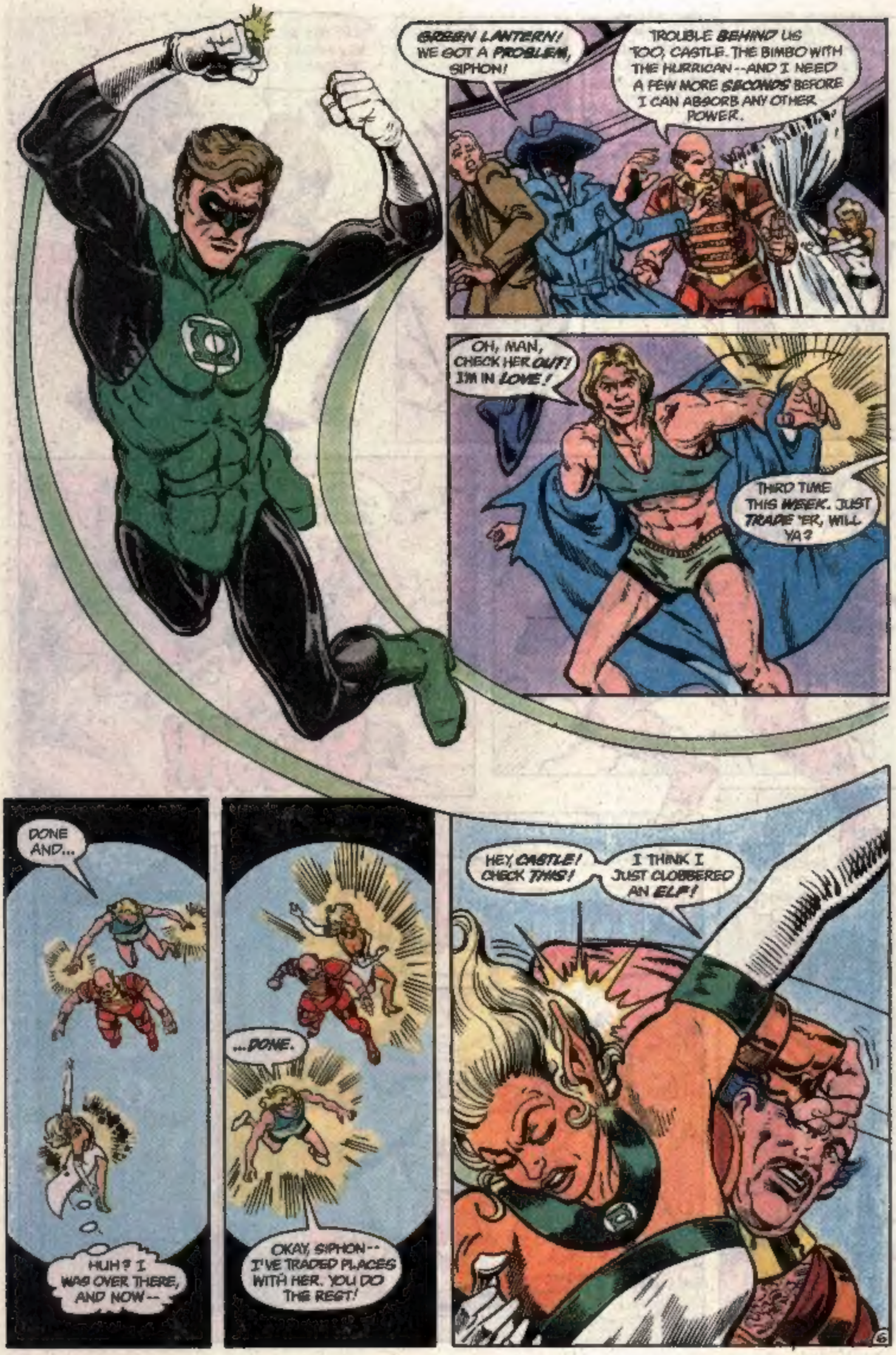
YES, THE LOVELY ARISIA HAS JUST DEMONSTRATED HI-TECH'S NEW HURRICAN, THE STORM-IN-A-CAN THAT WILL BE THE STATE-OF-THE-ART SELF-DEFENSE ITEM NEXT YEAR.
ANY WOULD-BE MUGGER WOULD HAVE TO BE AS BIG A DUMMY AS OUR DEMONSTRATOR THERE.
HI-TECH
SLICK-OIL INC.
a division of electrochemical problem-solving
HI-TECH'S HURRICAN WILL DISPATCH ANY MUGGER UP TO 300 POUNDS--
--AND IS STILL SMALL ENOUGH TO CLIP ONTO A CHARM BRACELET. NO MORE FUMBLING IN POCKETBOOKS FOR MACE.
JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO MIX IT UP WITH YOUR ANTIPERSPIRANT IN THE MORNING.
ARISIA'S LOOKING GOOD. I NEVER WOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS MODELING STUFF SERIOUSLY. MAKING MONEY FOR JUST BEING GORGEOUS? BUT IF SHE'S HAPPY, OOOKAY.
HA! HE DID MAKE IT! HI, HON!
TECHNO FAIR '88
DEVLIN DEVICES
MIRACLES OF
NEVER BEEN TO A SCIENCE EXPO BEFORE.

ARISIA SAID THAT EVERYBODY FROM WOULD-BE INVENTORS TO THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL LABS ARE HERE, TRYING TO INTEREST BUYERS AND SELLERS IN THEIR PRODUCTS.
YES, PERPETUAL MOTION CAN BE YOURS--
I WONDER HOW A POWER RING, CONTROLLED BY WILLPOWER, WOULD GO OVER?
YES, GIOBERTI INDUSTRIES PRESENTS THIS HAND-ACTIVATED, ELECTRONIC SAFE FOR HOME OR OFFICE...
SAFES FOR Tomorrow
FINGERP ACTIVATE LOCK
YOU'RE DOING GREAT, ARISIA. I LOVE THE FAKE EARS--I'M A TREKKIE, TOO. SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING TONIGHT?
WASHING MY HAIR, OLLIE. WITH A FRIEND.
STRIKING OUT AGAIN, OLLIE?
SON OF A--
"SON"? MY, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WITH A WOMAN FOR A LONG TIME, HAVE YOU?
VERONICA! THIS IS A SURPRISE.
3

I HEARD YOU FOLKS WERE DEVELOPING SOME CHARMING DEVICES. YOU'RE MY COMPETITION, SO I THOUGHT I'D CHECK YOU OUT.
HMPH. BET THE ONLY CHECKING-OUT SHE'S DONE LATELY IS FROM SLEAZY MOTELS.
HMM. THOSE TWO GUYS ARE WEARING OVERCOATS...BUT IT'S 75 DEGREES OUT AND EVEN HOTTER IN HERE.
PARDON ME, HANDSOME.
GREAT GUARDIANS! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE...
...HAT... SHE HAS.
NUTS. LOST THE GUYS WHEN THAT WOMAN DISTRACTED ME.
ARISIA WOULD KILL ME IF SHE KNEW. AH WELL...
WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING AT HI-TECH?
GADGETS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YET ANOTHER ADVENTUROUS ADVANCE FROM HI-TECH...
I SHOULDN'T EVEN BE DEMONSTRATING THIS...SUPPOSED TO BE WAITING FOR GENERAL CARUTHERS TO PICK UP THIS PROTOTYPE.
BUT I KNOW VERONICA, SHE GETS TURNED ON BY POWER, AND I LIKE BEING IN A POSITION TO TURN ON VERONICA HAWKES.
HI-TECH
4

HOPE SHE'S WATCHING.
OBSERVE, FOLKS... THE COLLAPSER.
EVEN THIS MINIATURE PROTOTYPE CAN CAUSE A CONCRETE BLOCK TO COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF, LEAVING ONLY A PILE OF RUBBLE.
SHOOM
JACKPOT!
HEY!!
LET GO, YOU IDIOT! MY FINGER'S ON THE TRIGGER! IT COULD--
SHOOM
THANKS. I DIDN'T EAT YET TODAY.
NOW, EVERYBODY... BLOW!
SHOOM!
WHY IS THERE TROUBLE WHEREVER I GO? I'M LIKE A MAGNET.
THAT AT&T EXHIBIT. PERFECT PLACE TO CHANGE.
THIS LOOKS LIKE...
...A JOB FOR...
6


GREEN LANTERN! WE GOT A PROBLEM, SIPHON!
TROUBLE BEHIND US TOO, CASTLE. THE BIMBO WITH THE HURRICAN--AND I NEED A FEW MORE SECONDS BEFORE I CAN ABSORB ANY OTHER POWER.
OH, MAN, CHECK HER OUT! I'M IN LOVE!
THIRD TIME THIS WEEK. JUST TRADE 'ER, WILL YA?
DONE AND...
HUH? I WAS OVER THERE, AND NOW--
...DONE.
OKAY, SIPHON-- I'VE TRADED PLACES WITH HER. YOU DO THE REST!
HEY, CASTLE! CHECK THIS!
I THINK I JUST CLOBBERED AN ELF!
6

WHO YOU JUST CLOBBERED, BUDDY, IS SOMEONE WITH FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.
VERY ANGRY FRIENDS.
YOU SOUND LIKE AN IRATE LOVER, LANTERN. SHE YOUR WOMAN?
WELL, I TRY NOT TO DISCRIMINATE. I'M A LIBERATED MAN.
SEE? I JUST LIBERATED MYSELF.
UH OH.
AND NOW IT'S ... EQUAL TIME!
TOMOM
THIS ISN'T GOING AS WELL AS I'D HOPED.
HEY, SIPHON! I'M IN LOVE!
STOP SCREWING AROUND BEFORE YOU GET INTO TROUBLE.
HEY! TOMOM
WANK!
7

NEXT: "TO (NEED) AIR IS HUMAN"

THAT WAS NO LADY...

WRITTEN BY MARTIN PASKO

DRAWN BY RICK BURCHETT

LETTERED BY STEVE HAYNIE

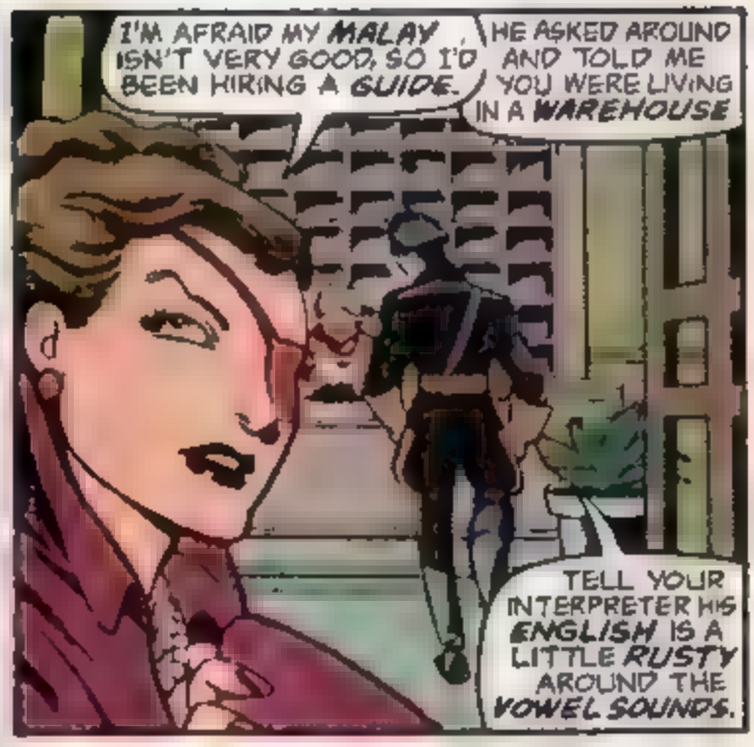
COLORED BY TOM ZIUKO

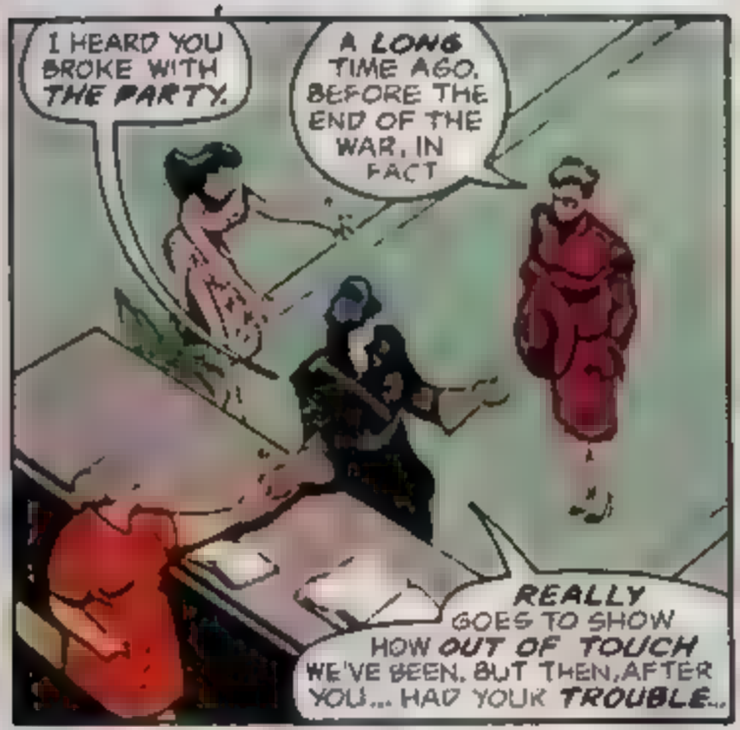
EDITED BY MIKE GOLD

SORRY. I'LL PASS ON BOTH.
KCHOCK
SPEEOW
BLAM BLAMM
LOUR
FLOUR
BLAMM

BLAMM
"MADAME SOON-S". ORCHARD ROAD --HURRY!
YOU'RE WELCOME ..JANOS.
NATALIE ?!?

. I WAS ONLY SUPPOSED TO BE HERE ON A LAYOVER BUT I DECIDED TO STICK AROUND AWHILE
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU WENT TO THE QUAY LOOKING FOR ME...?
STILL LIKE TO FLATTER YOURSELF, I SEE. BUT, WELL ACTUALLY... YES.


I'M AFRAID MY MALAY ISN'T VERY GOOD, SO I'D BEEN HIRING A GUIDE.
HE ASKED AROUND AND TOLD ME YOU WERE LIVING IN A WAREHOUSE
TELL YOUR INTERPRETER HIS ENGLISH IS A LITTLE RUSTY AROUND THE VOWEL SOUNDS.

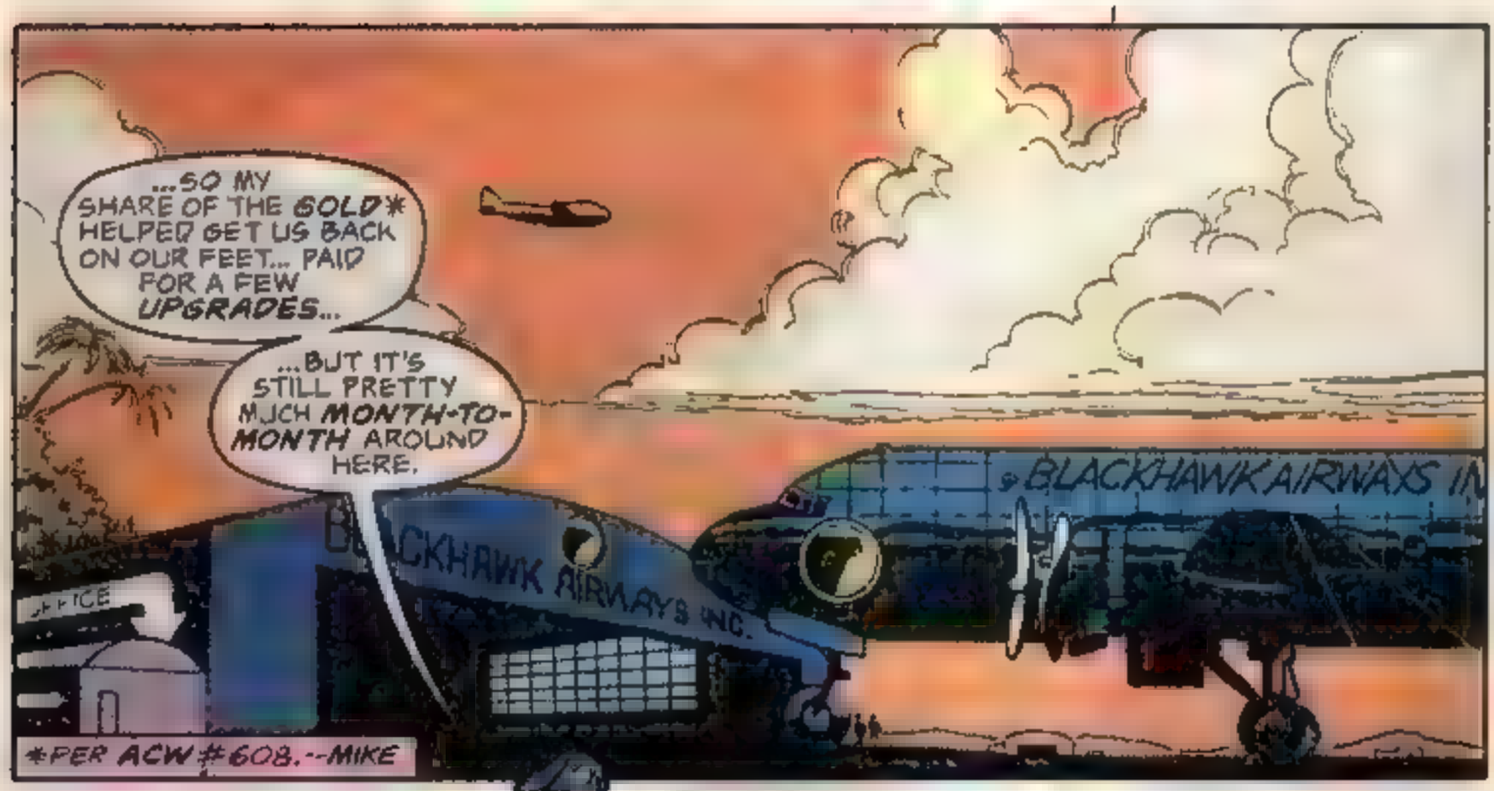

I HEARD YOU BROKE WITH THE PARTY.
A LONG TIME AGO, BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR, IN FACT
REALLY GOES TO SHOW HOW OUT OF TOUCH WE'VE BEEN. BUT THEN, AFTER YOU... HAD YOUR TROUBLE..

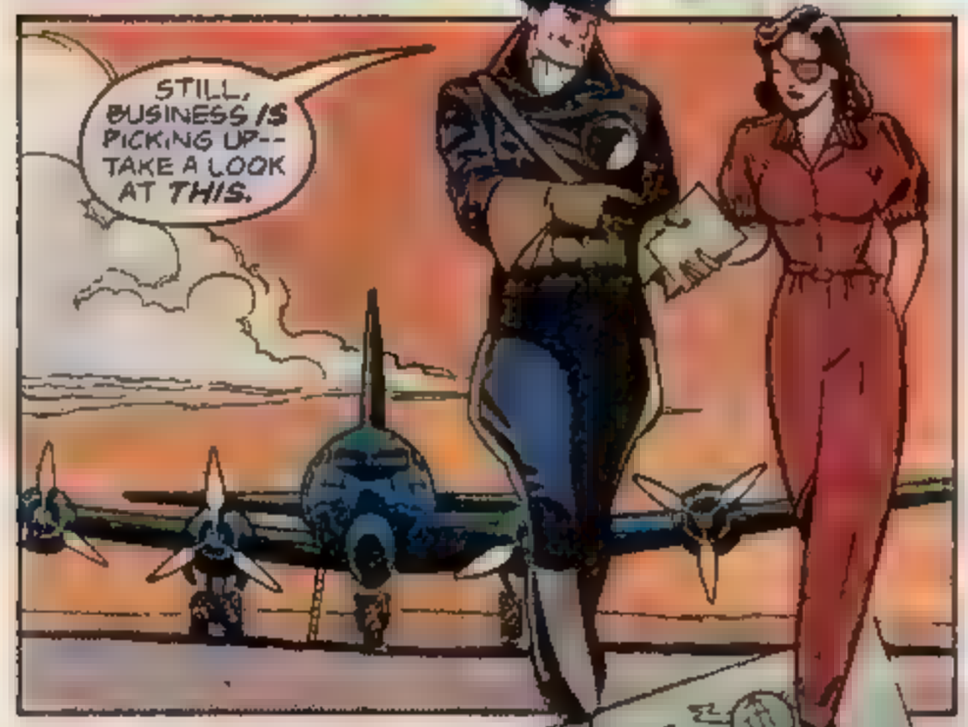
WHAT A GENTLEMANLY WAY OF PUTTING IT--
NOT TONIGHT, HON. I'VE GOT COMPANY.
--YOU TRYING TO TELL ME YOU'RE NOT REALLY THE HEEL YOUR PRESS MAKES YOU OUT TO BE?

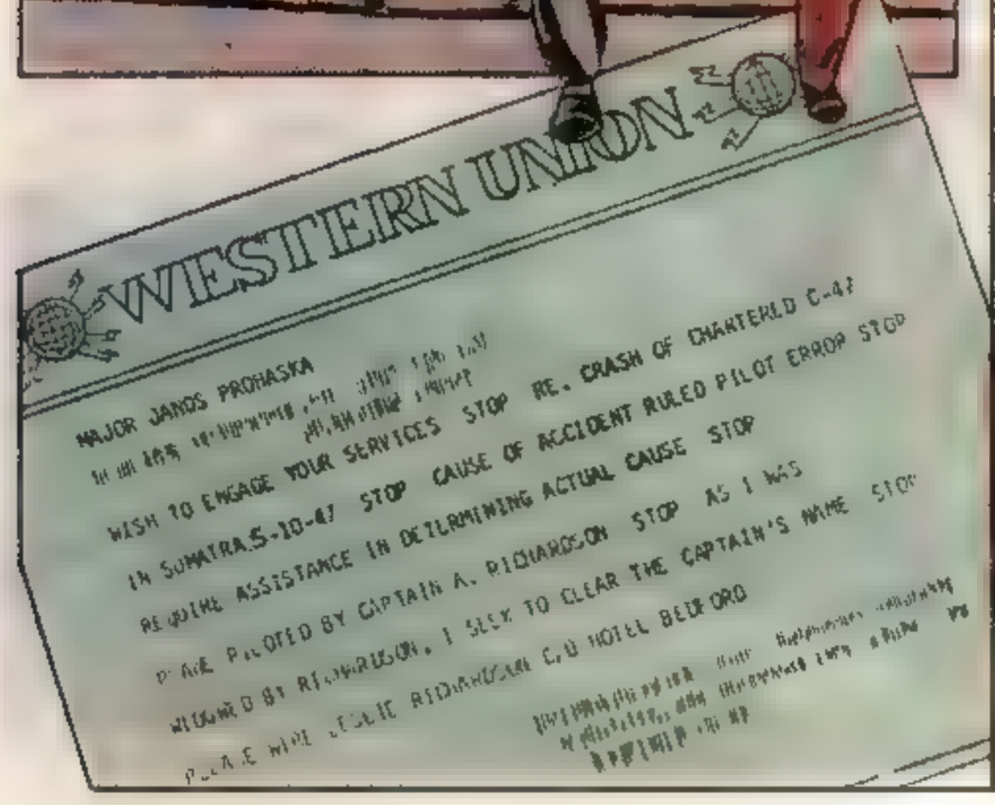
WELL, I'M GETTING TOO OLD FOR DANCING AROUND THE MAYPOLE
THE WORD YOU'RE GROPING FOR, COMRADE MAJOR, IS PREGNANT.
STOW THAT "GENTLEMAN" STUFF BEFORE THE SUBJECT CHANGED, I WAS GONNA ASK YOU UPSTAIRS.

PLEASE, JAN THESE DAYS, I CAN ONLY HANDLE ONE BASTARD AT A TIME.

--NO, JAN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, I WOULDN'T MARRY HIM.
HE WAS A PIG. HE AND JACK DANIELS USED TO BELT ME AROUND A LITTLE.
THAT'S LOUSY, NAT.
NOT AS MUCH AS THE FACT THAT I LET HIM.
I WAS HOPING THERE WAS A MORE... GLAMOROUS REASON FOR THAT.
YEAH, WELL, FORGET IT I'M STILL "AMERICA'S FAVORITE PARLOR-PINK PIN-UP"...
YEAH: "NATALIE REED."
ANYBODY STATESIDE EVER GET THAT JOKE?
THEY DO NOW, JAN. THERE'S A REAL... "RED CONSCIOUSNESS" BACK HOME.
AND..?
LOOK, LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, OKAY? I WAS KIND OF WONDERING IF YOU COULD SPARE A GIRL A JOB.
SURE... BUT WHY?
HELL, I GET MY NEWS FROM THE FUNNY PAPERS, BUT EVEN I HEARD ABOUT THOSE MOVIE GUYS WANTING TO MAKE YOU A STAR--
Singapore Sling
THAT, PAL, WAS A PIPE DREAM FROM A VERY SHORT PIPE.
EVER HEAR OF A GUY NAMED J. PARNELL THOMAS ...OR A THING CALLED H.U.A.C.?


...SO MY SHARE OF THE GOLD* HELPED GET US BACK ON OUR FEET... PAID FOR A FEW UPGRADES...
...BUT IT'S STILL PRETTY MUCH MONTH-TO-MONTH AROUND HERE.
BLACKHAWK AIRWAYS INC.
BLACKHAWK AIRWAYS IN
*PER ACW #608.--MIKE


STILL, BUSINESS IS PICKING UP-- TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.


WESTERN UNION
MAJOR JANOS PROHASKA
WISH TO ENGAGE YOUR SERVICES STOP RE. CRASH OF CHANTERELD C-47
IN SUMATRA 5-10-47 STOP CAUSE OF ACCIDENT RULED PILOT ERROR STOP
REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING ACTUAL CAUSE STOP
PLANE PILOTED BY CAPTAIN A. RICHARDSON STOP AS I WAS
ACQUAINTED BY RICHARDSON, I SEEK TO CLEAR THE CAPTAIN'S NAME STOP
PLEASE WIRE LESLIE RICHARDSON C/O HOTEL BELFORD

YOU TOOK THIS--?
NOT MUCH TO GO ON. HOW DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE GETTING INTO?
SHE'S WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THE FEE AFTER SHE GETS HERE--

--WHICH MEANS SHE MUST HAVE MUCHO DINERO TO THROW AROUND.
BESIDES--WHO KNOWS? SHE COULD BE ONE GREAT-LOOKIN' TOMATO. MIGHT BE SOME FRINGE BENEFITS, IF YOU GET ME.
SWELL. NOW ABOUT THIS JOB...
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU WANT ME TO BE YOUR "GAL FRIDAY" ...!
WELL...ACTUALLY ..IT'S MORE LIKE A COMBINATION FLIGHT-TRAFFIC CLERK AND GROUND CREW.
OFFICE
OKAY, SO MAYBE YOU ARE A LITTLE OVERQUALIFIED--
--I KNOW YOU'RE STILL ONE OF THE BEST DAMNED ENGINEERS AROUND.
BUT UNLESS YOU'RE IN A POSITION TO TURN DOWN WORK...?
STILL KNOW HOW TO SWEET-TALK A GAL, DON'T Y--
I HAD A GIRL RUNNING THINGS HERE, BUT SHE SPOKE ONLY TAMIL... AND ANYWAY, SHE QUIT. SOMETHING ABOUT BACK PAY--
FORGET IT! I'D NEED A SCOPE JUST TO FIND THE FLOOR!
--AND MY MECHANIC WENT WITH HER
HE WAS HER BROTHER, SEE? AND THEY'RE VERY BIG ON FAMILY LOYALTY, THESE MALAYS--
EXCUSE ME..
.. MAJOR PROHASKA? MY NAME'S RICHARDSON --LESLIE RICHARDSON.
I BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTING ME ..?
NEXT WEEK: THE MISSION

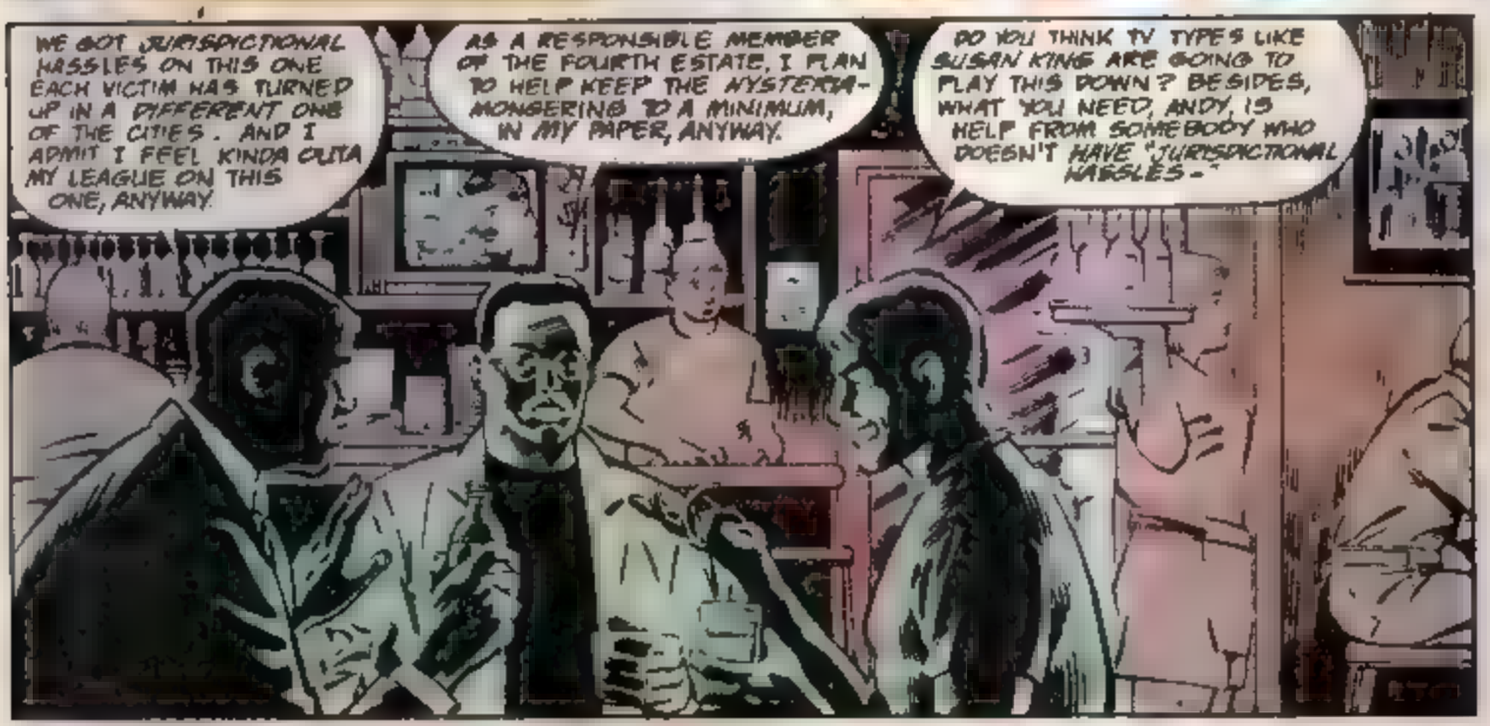
WILD DOG™

FATAL DISTRACTION

CHAPTER ONE NIGHT PATROL

MAX COLLINS • TERRY BEATTY
WRITER CO-CREATORS- PENCILLER
JOHN NYBERG CARL GAFFORD
INKER COLORIST
TIM HARKINS BRIAN AUGUSTYN
LETTERER EDITOR

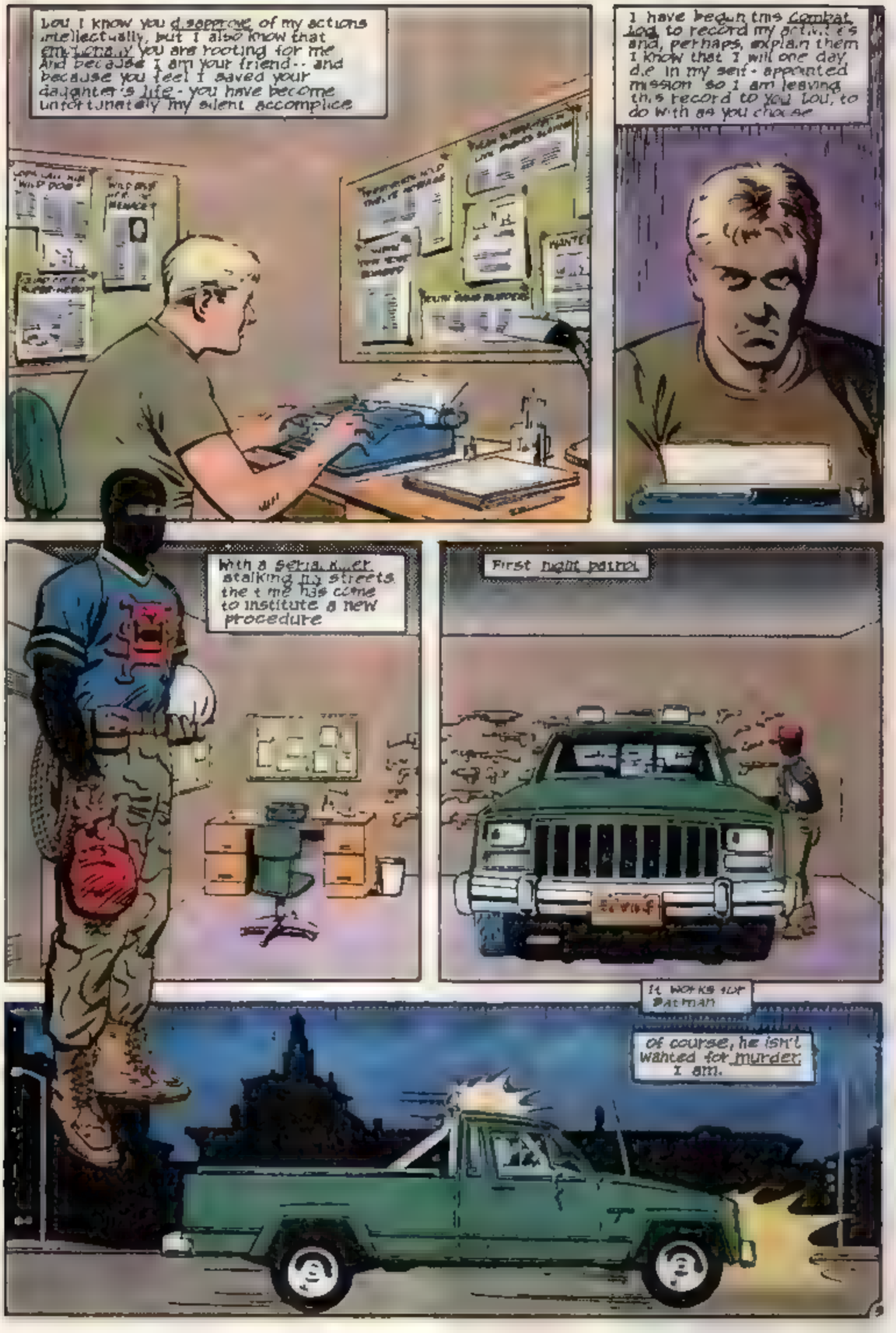
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS, LT. FLINT?
THE QUAD CITIES HAS ITS FIRST SERIAL KILLER, DETECTIVE CALLOWAY, AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND HIM--
OR HER-- CHICAGO HAD A BINGLES-SCENE "JILL THE RIPPER" A FEW YEARS AGO, YOU KNOW.

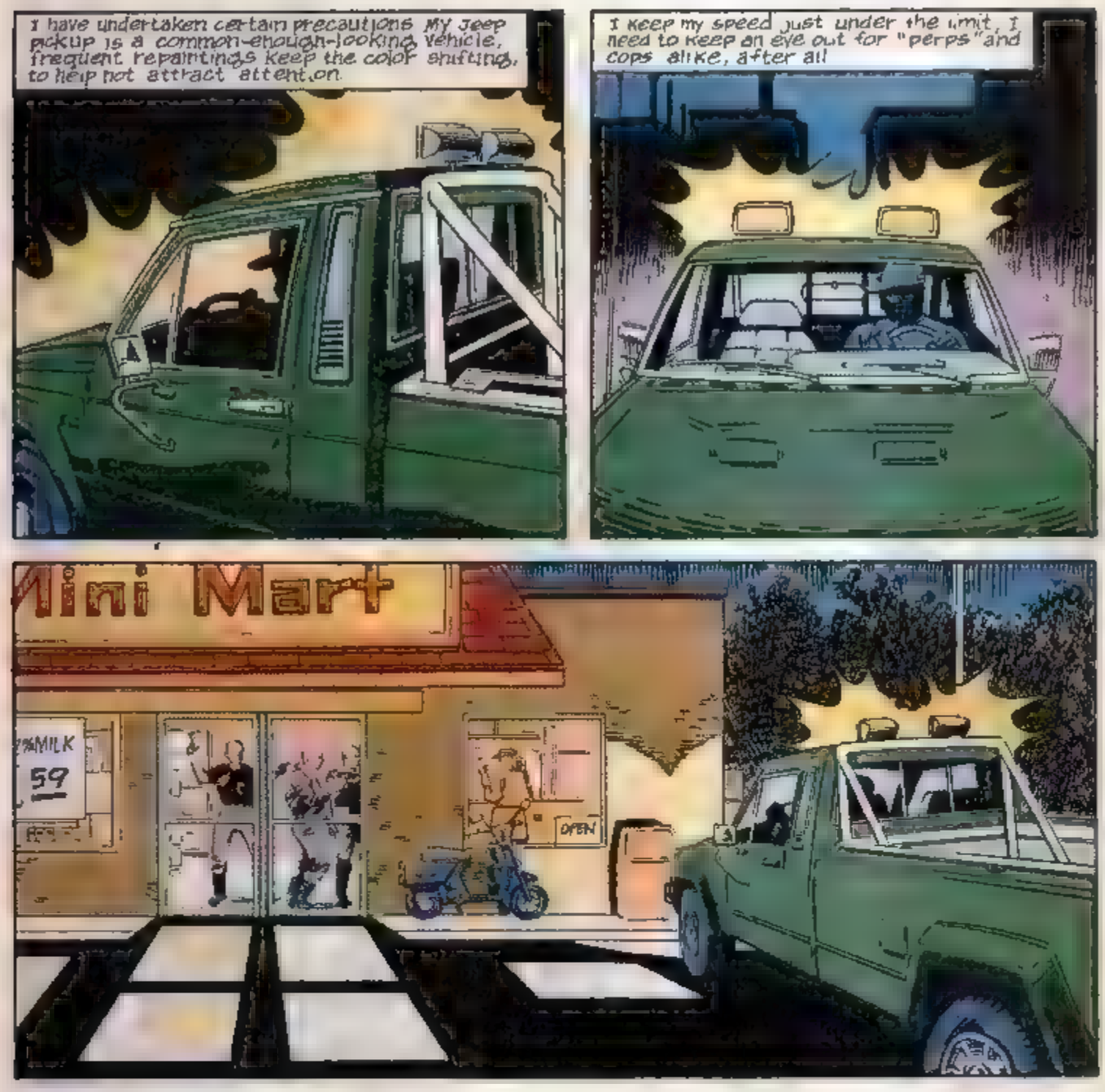

WE GOT JURISDICTIONAL HASSLES ON THIS ONE. EACH VICTIM HAS TURNED UP IN A DIFFERENT ONE OF THE CITIES. AND I ADMIT I FEEL KINDA OUTA MY LEAGUE ON THIS ONE, ANYWAY.
AS A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE FOURTH ESTATE, I PLAN TO HELP KEEP THE HYSTERIA-MONGERING TO A MINIMUM, IN MY PAPER, ANYWAY.
DO YOU THINK TV TYPES LIKE SUSAN KING ARE GOING TO PLAY THIS DOWN? BESIDES, WHAT YOU NEED, ANDY, IS HELP FROM SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T HAVE "JURISDICTIONAL HASSLES."

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A CERTAIN CANINE, JACK THIS ISN'T YOUR, er, HIS STYLE.

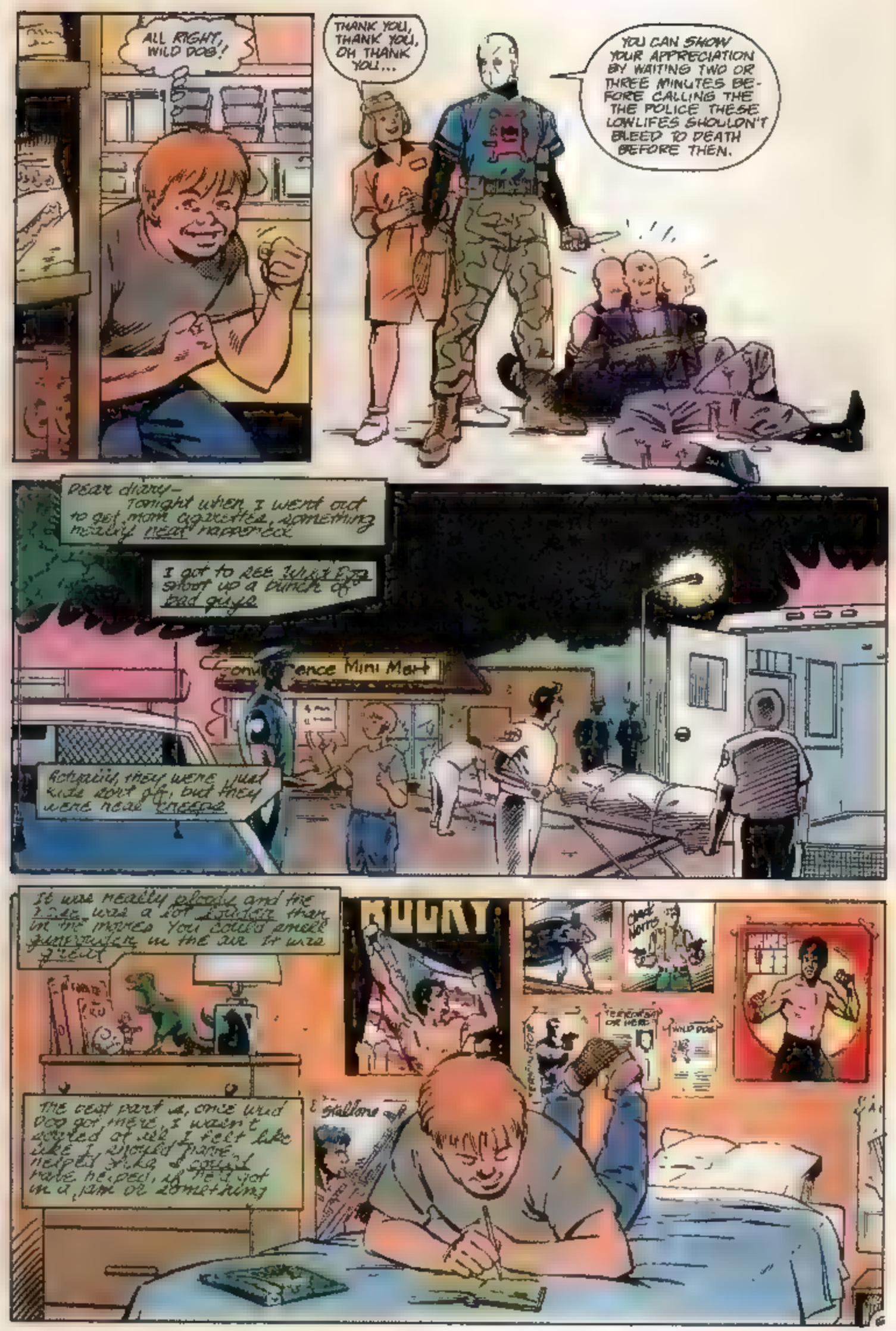
MAYBE IT SHOULD BE.

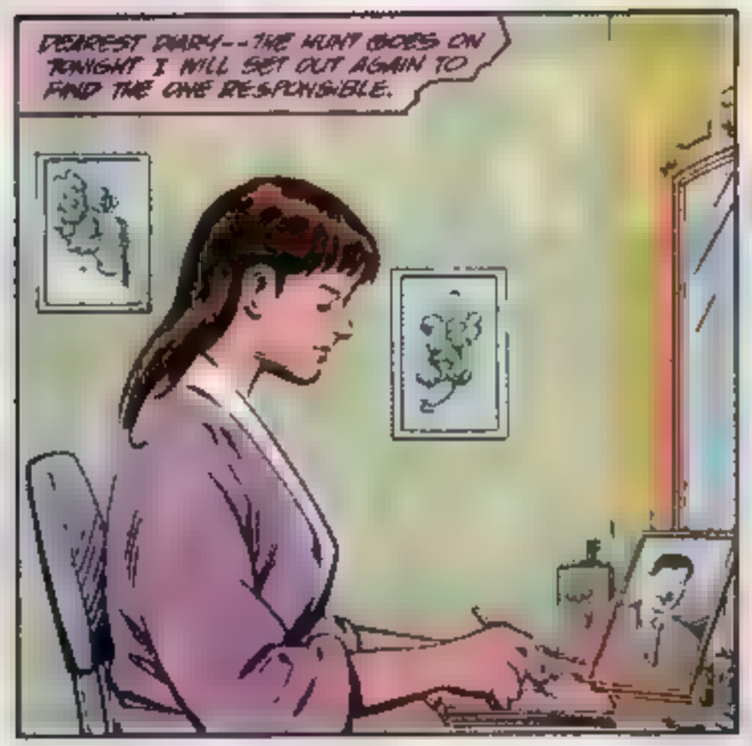
THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THE QUAD CITIES ALREADY HAVE A MASS MURDERER. WHO WEARS A HOCKEY MASK, JUST LIKE THE GUY IN "FRIDAY THE 13th!"

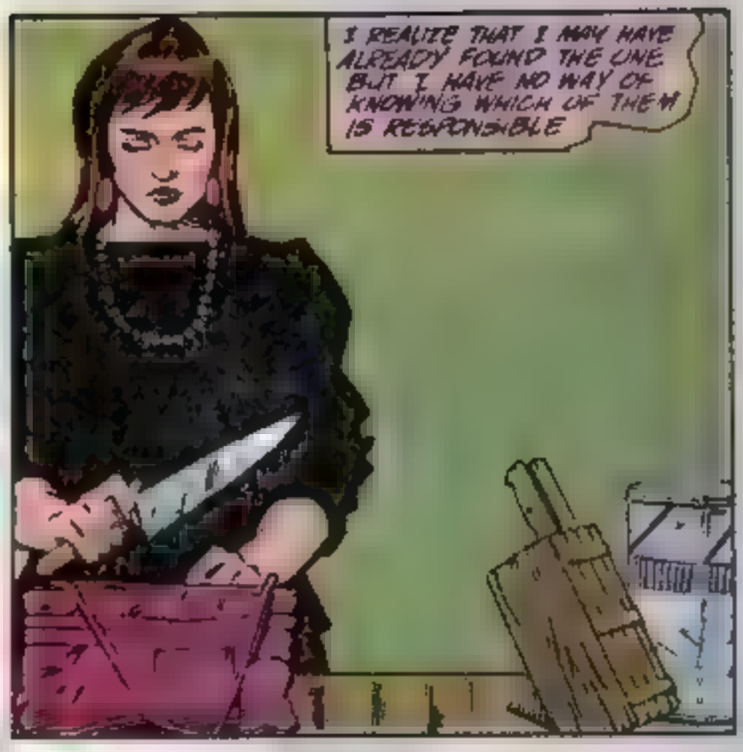

Lou, I know you disapprove of my actions intellectually, but I also know that emotionally you are rooting for me And because I am your friend -- and because you feel I saved your daughter's life - you have become unfortunately my silent accomplice
I have begun this Combat Log to record my activities and, perhaps, explain them I know that I will one day die in my self-appointed mission so I am leaving this record to you Lou, to do with as you choose
With a serial killer stalking my streets the time has come to institute a new procedure
First night patrol
It works for Batman
Of course, he isn't wanted for murder. I am.


I have undertaken certain precautions. My Jeep pickup is a common-enough-looking vehicle, frequent repaintings keep the color shifting, to help not attract attention.
I keep my speed just under the limit, I need to keep an eye out for "perps" and cops alike, after all!
Mini Mart
%MILK
59
OPEN
OPEN THE SAFE, SKAG!
I DON'T HAVE THE COMBINATION, I TELL YOU! PLEASE DON'T HURT ME!

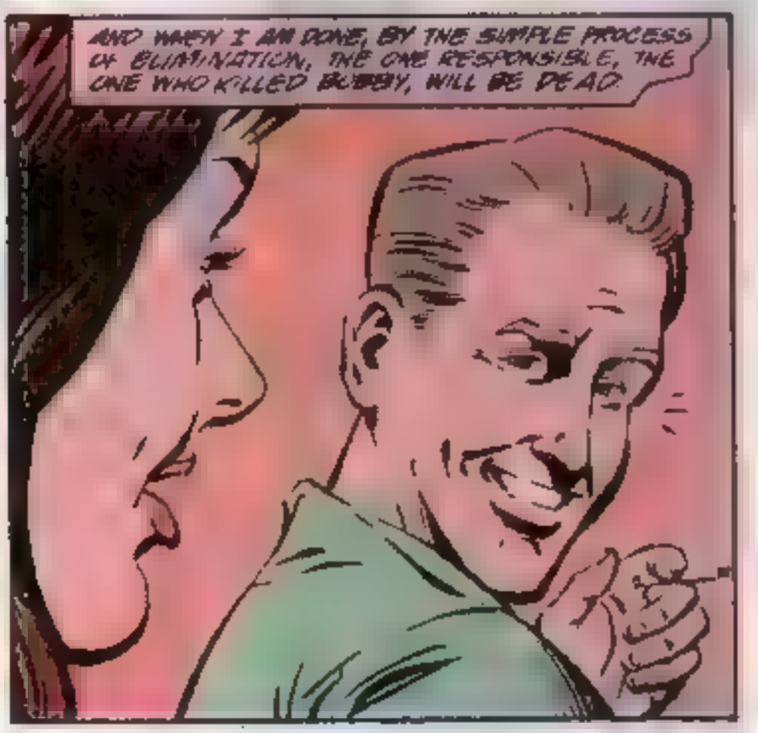
CAN I HELP YOU?
BIDDA BIDDA BUDDA!!
AH-EEE-EEE-EEE!!


ALL RIGHT, WILD DOG!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, OH THANK YOU...
YOU CAN SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION BY WAITING TWO OR THREE MINUTES BEFORE CALLING THE THE POLICE THESE LOWLIFES SHOULDN'T BLEED TO DEATH BEFORE THEN.
Dear diary— Tonight when I went out to get mom cigarettes, something nearly neat happened.
I got to see Wild Dog shoot up a bunch of bad guys.
Convenience Mini Mart
Actually, they were just kids sort of, but they were near enough.
It was nearly bloody and the noise was a lot louder than in the movies. You could smell gunpowder in the air it was great.
BOOM!
CHUCK NORRIS
TERMINATOR
TERMINATOR OR HERC
WILD DOG
The best part is, once Wild Dog got there, I wasn't scared at all. I felt like like I myself were helped. I could have helped, if he'd got in a jam or something.
Stallone

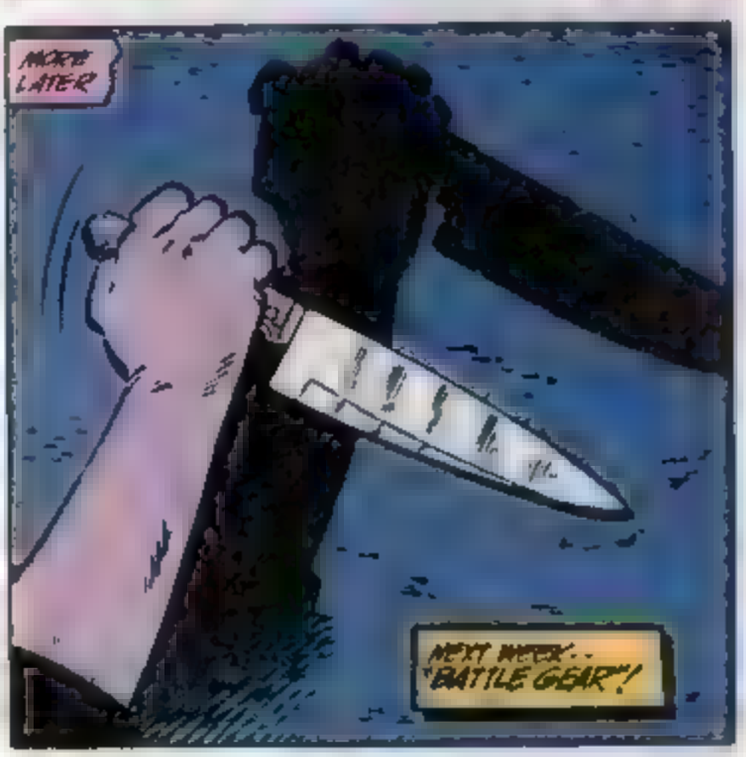

DEAREST DIARY--THE HUNT GOES ON TONIGHT I WILL SET OUT AGAIN TO FIND THE ONE RESPONSIBLE.


I REALIZE THAT I MAY HAVE ALREADY FOUND THE ONE. BUT I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHICH OF THEM IS RESPONSIBLE

SO, OF COURSE, THE ONLY LOGICAL THING TO DO IS KILL THEM ALL.


AND WHEN I AM DONE, BY THE SIMPLE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION, THE ONE RESPONSIBLE, THE ONE WHO KILLED BOBBY, WILL BE DEAD.

THEN I WILL BE WHOLE AGAIN. THEN, PERHAPS, I CAN CONVINCE JORDAN THAT I AM REDEEMED. THAT I AM WORTHY. THAT, DEAREST DIARY, IS MY PRAYER
PARKING ALLEY

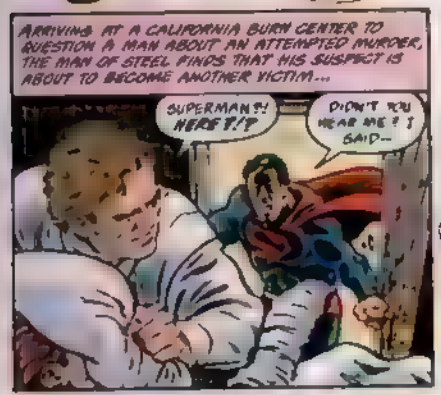

MORE LATER
NEXT WEEK... "BATTLE GEAR"!

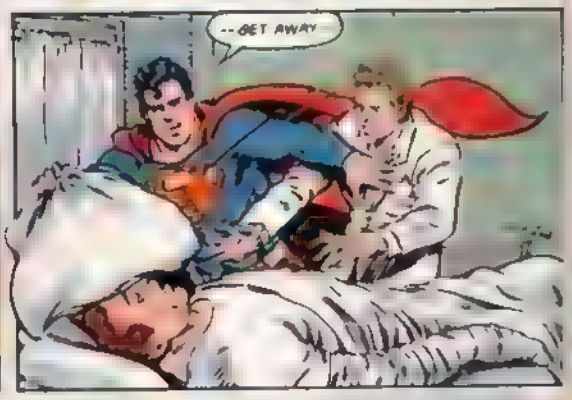
SUPERMAN

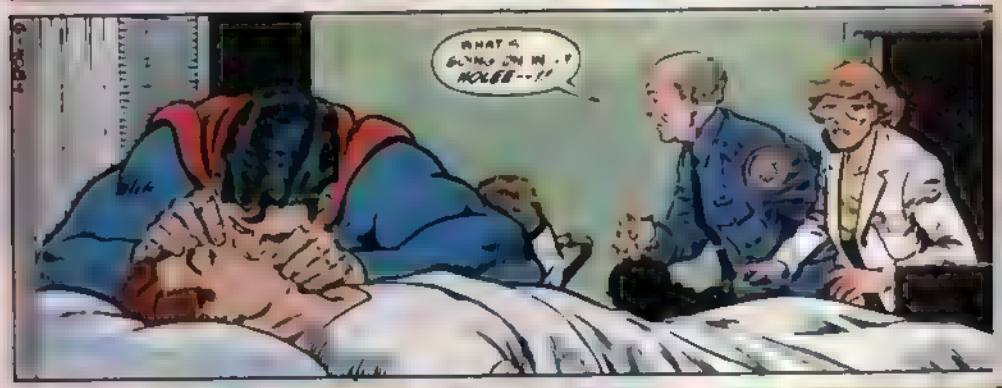
Created by [illegible]

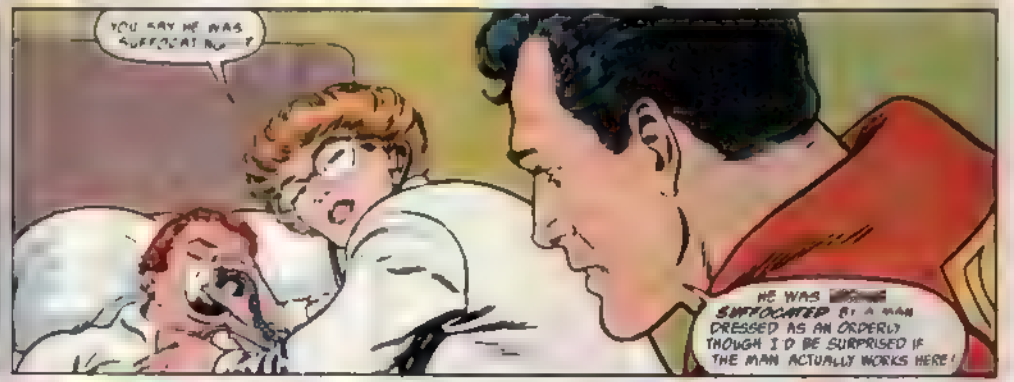
FATAL FLAW?

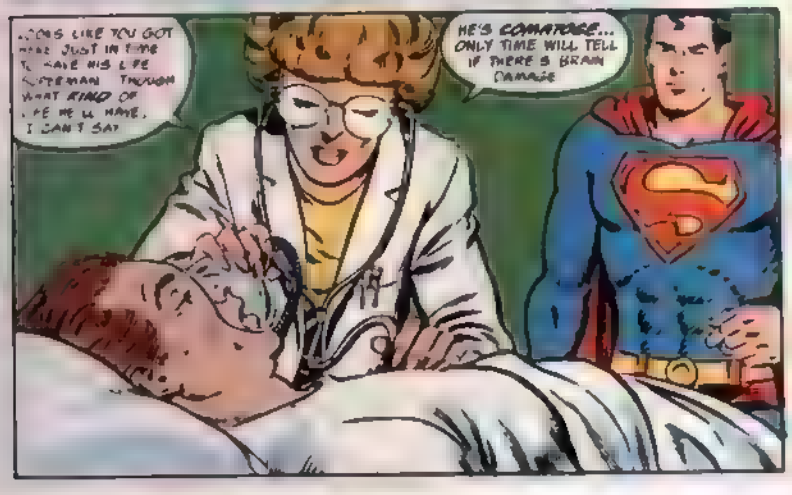
ROGER STERN - WRITER
CLAIT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

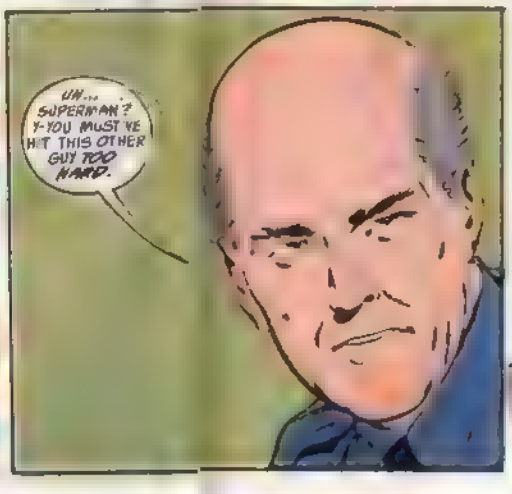


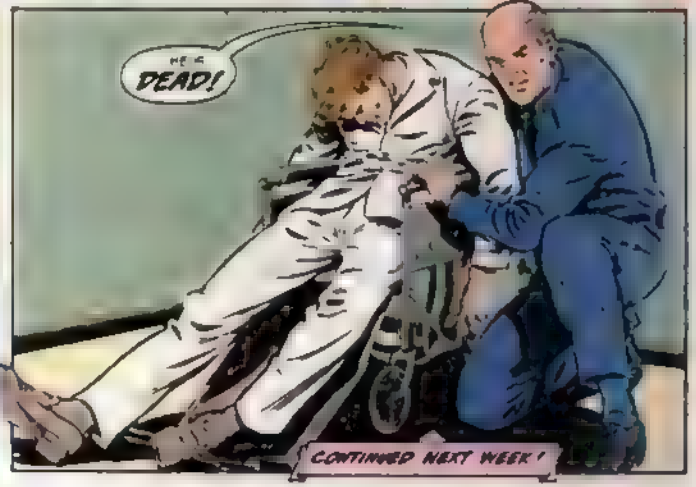










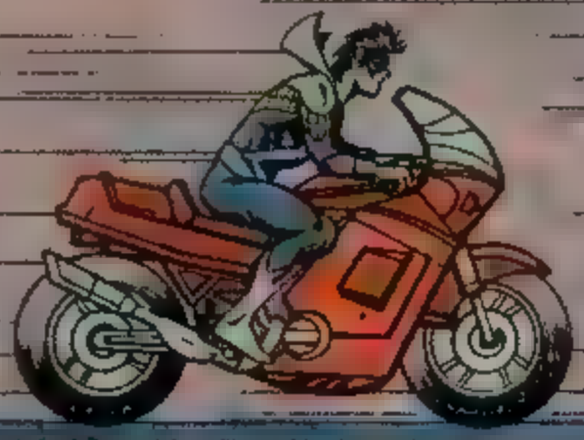


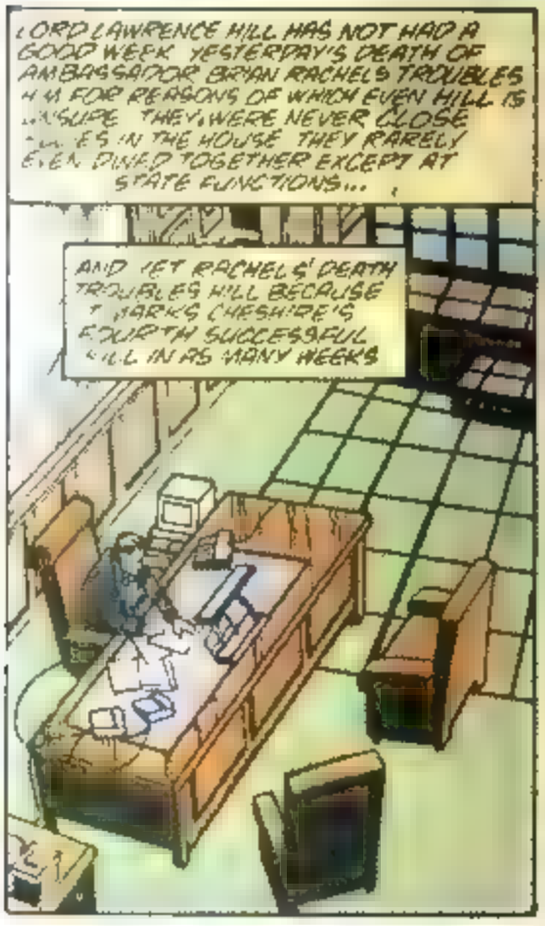
LONDON... THE ONCOMING LIGHTS REMIND HIM HE'S DRIVING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE STREET AS HE SPEEDS PAST THE BRITISH MUSEUM TOWARD HIS MEETING AT PARLIAMENT.
DICK GRAYSON.. NIGHTWING... SWERVES BACK INTO HIS LANE, ANGRY AT THE EVENTS THAT HAVE TRANSPIRED..
GARRISON PEEBLES CHOKES AS THE GARROTE TIGHTENS AROUND HIS NECK. HE CAN BARELY HEAR CHESHIRE'S SOFT LAUGH AS SHE PULLS THE ROPE EVER TIGHTER.
HIS NECK SNAPS AND BLOOD SPITS FROM HIS LIPS, STAINING THE LEATHER-BOUND RARE BOOK COLLECTION THAT SURROUNDS HIM
PEEBLES WAS A WRITER BEFORE HE BECAME AMBASSADOR. HE LIVED BY HIS WORDS. NOW HE DIES BY THEM
ROY HARPER WIPES RAYMOND WEST'S BLOOD OFF HIS GLOVE AND ONTO WEST'S CLEAN, WHITE SHIRT.
AND THEN SPEEDY ASKS THE QUESTION A FOURTH TIME. "WHERE IS SHE?" HE WILL WAIT FIVE SECONDS FOR AN ANSWER.
B-3864

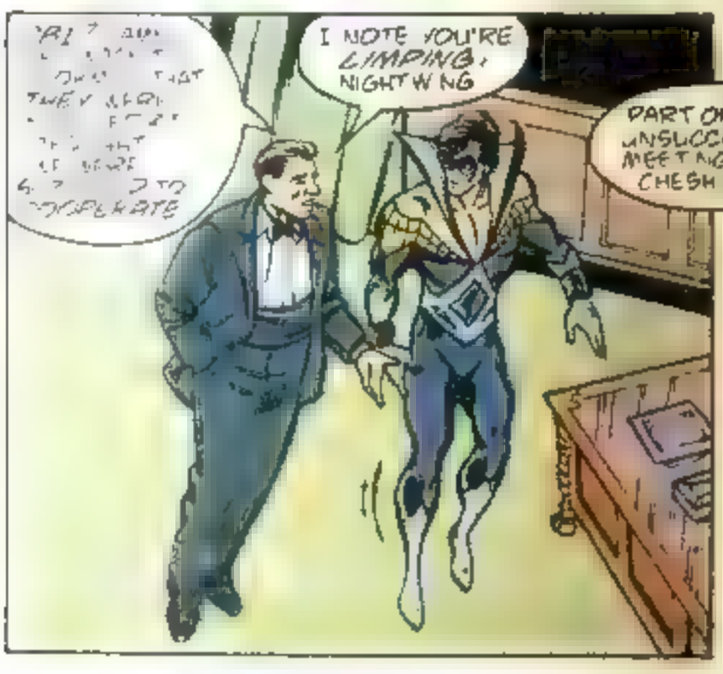
NIGHTWING™

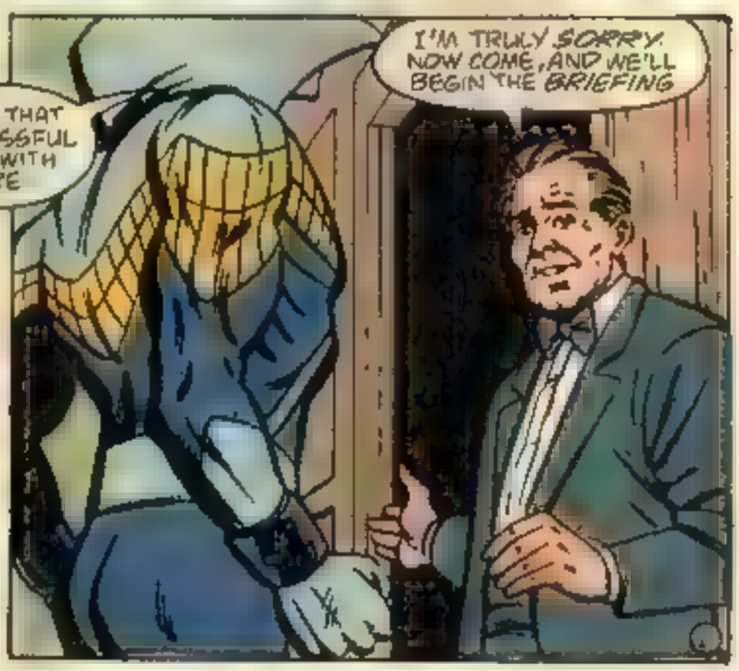
CHAPTER THREE: TRACKS OF A KILLER!

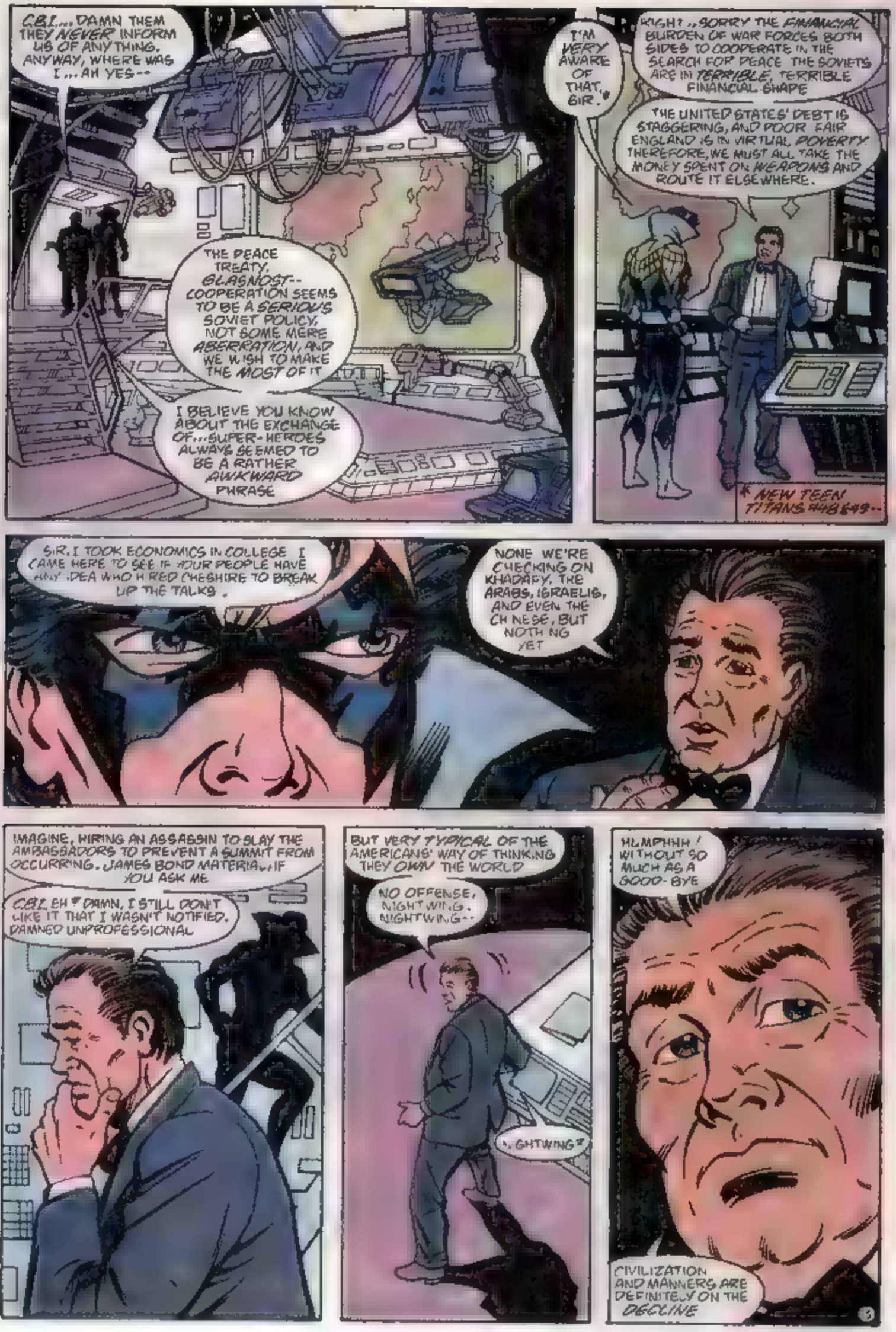
MARV WOLFMAN — WRITER
CHUCK PATTON — PENCILLER
TOM POSTON — INKER
ALBERT DE GUZMAN — LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY — COLORIST
BARBARA KESEL — EDITOR



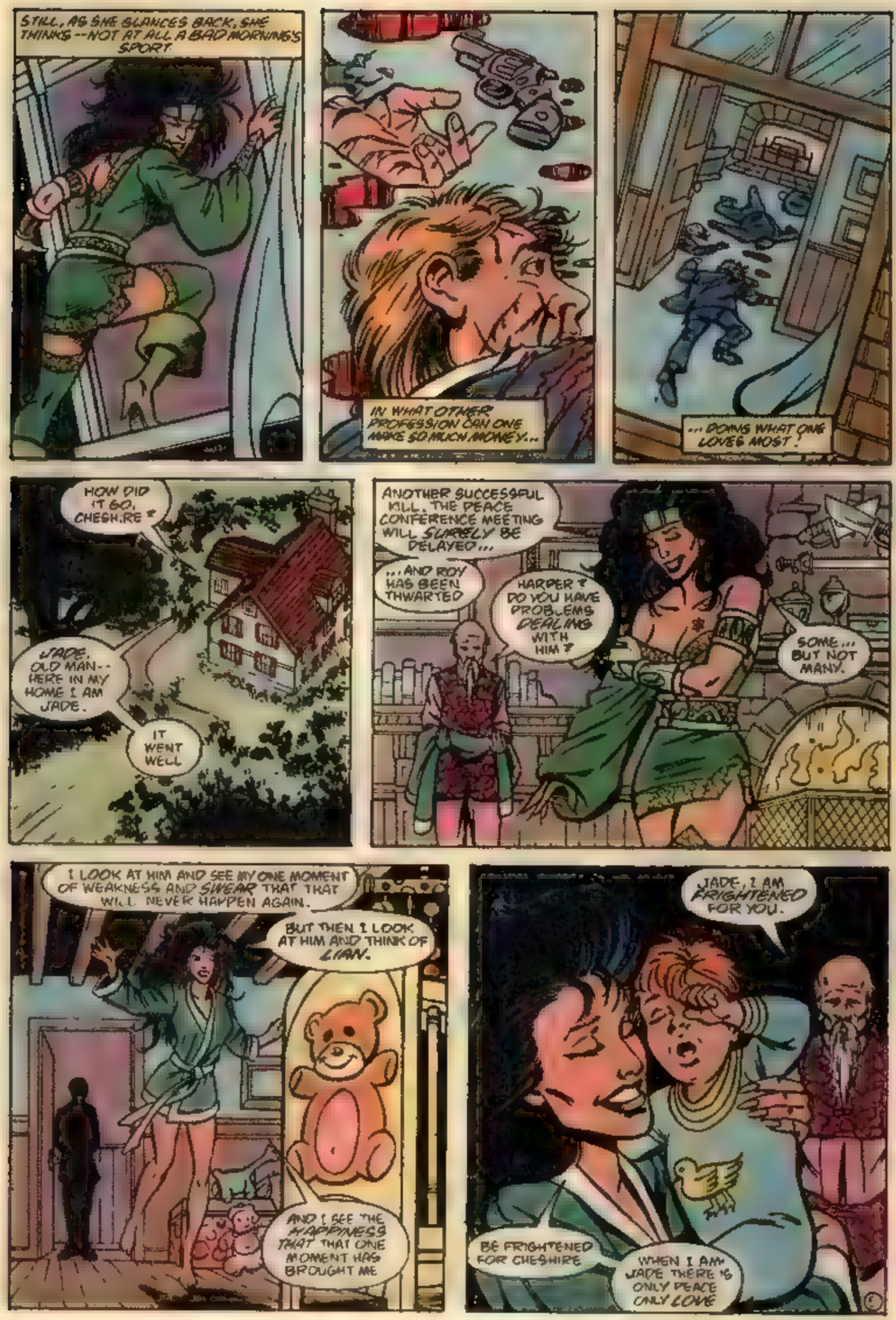






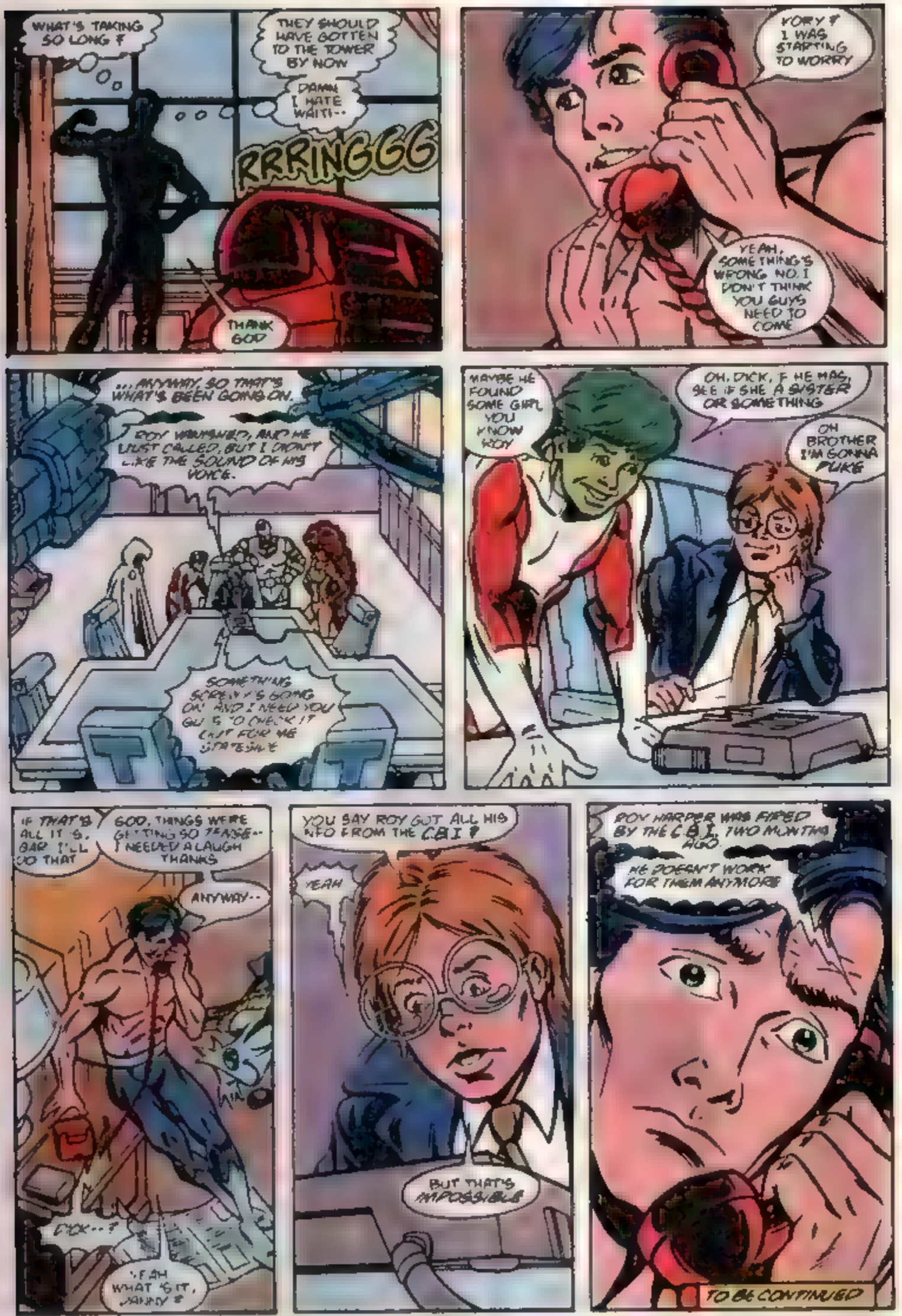

C.B.I.... DAMN THEM THEY NEVER INFORM US OF ANYTHING. ANYWAY, WHERE WAS I... AH YES--
THE PEACE TREATY, GLASNOST-- COOPERATION SEEMS TO BE A SERIOUS SOVIET POLICY, NOT SOME MERE ABERRATION, AND WE WISH TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE EXCHANGE OF... SUPER-HEROES ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE A RATHER AWKWARD PHRASE
I'M VERY AWARE OF THAT, SIR.*
RIGHT.. SORRY THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF WAR FORCES BOTH SIDES TO COOPERATE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE THE SOVIETS ARE IN TERRIBLE, TERRIBLE FINANCIAL SHAPE
THE UNITED STATES' DEBT IS STAGGERING, AND POOR FAIR ENGLAND IS IN VIRTUAL POVERTY THEREFORE, WE MUST ALL TAKE THE MONEY SPENT ON WEAPONS AND ROUTE IT ELSEWHERE.
* NEW TEEN TITANS #48 & 49--
SIR, I TOOK ECONOMICS IN COLLEGE I CAME HERE TO SEE IF YOUR PEOPLE HAVE ANY IDEA WHO HIRED CHESHIRE TO BREAK UP THE TALKS.
NONE WE'RE CHECKING ON KHADAFY, THE ARABS, ISRAELIS, AND EVEN THE CHINESE, BUT NOTHING YET
IMAGINE, HIRING AN ASSASSIN TO SLAY THE AMBASSADORS TO PREVENT A SUMMIT FROM OCCURRING. JAMES BOND MATERIAL, IF YOU ASK ME
C.B.I. EH? DAMN, I STILL DON'T LIKE IT THAT I WASN'T NOTIFIED. DAMNED UNPROFESSIONAL
BUT VERY TYPICAL OF THE AMERICANS' WAY OF THINKING THEY OWN THE WORLD
NO OFFENSE, NIGHTWING. NIGHTWING--
...GHTWING?
HUMPHHH! WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GOOD-BYE
CIVILIZATION AND MANNERS ARE DEFINITELY ON THE DECLINE
3

EVERYTHING FEELS SO WRONG. ROY'S STILL GONE.
LORD HILL HAD NO IDEA THE CBI'S INVOLVED.
Coca-Cola
I DON'T CARE IF ROY DID SWEAR ME TO SILENCE-- I'VE GOT TO TALK THIS OVER WITH THE OTHERS.
DAMN. WHAT IS ROY UP TO? AND WHERE IS CHESHIRE HIDING?
AMBASSADOR PEEBLES, WE HEARD A COMMOTO-- MY GOD!
I SEE MY PLEASURE HAS COME TO AN END A PITY
HE HAD A RATHER PLEASANT LAST BUBBLE BEFORE HE DIED
ONE OF MY MORE ENJOYABLE KILLS.
AAARGGHH
CHESHIRE'S FINGERNAILS ARE COATED WITH AN INSTANTLY ACTING POISON.
THUD GUARDS DIE BEFORE THEY KNOW WHAT HIT THEM
AND HE'D LINGERED FOR THIRTY PAINFUL SECONDS.
FOUR KILLS IN FORTY-TWO SECONDS, CHESHIRE THRIVES
NOT A RECORD


STILL, AS SHE GLANCES BACK, SHE THINKS --NOT AT ALL A BAD MORNING'S SPORT.
IN WHAT OTHER PROFESSION CAN ONE MAKE SO MUCH MONEY...
...DOING WHAT ONE LOVES MOST!
HOW DID IT GO, CHESHIRE?
JADE, OLD MAN-- HERE IN MY HOME I AM JADE.
IT WENT WELL
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL KILL. THE PEACE CONFERENCE MEETING WILL SURELY BE DELAYED...
...AND ROY HAS BEEN THWARTED
HARPER? DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS DEALING WITH HIM?
SOME... BUT NOT MANY.
I LOOK AT HIM AND SEE MY ONE MOMENT OF WEAKNESS AND SWEAR THAT THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
BUT THEN I LOOK AT HIM AND THINK OF LIAN.
AND I SEE THE HAPPINESS THAT THAT ONE MOMENT HAS BROUGHT ME
JADE, I AM FRIGHTENED FOR YOU.
BE FRIGHTENED FOR CHESHIRE
WHEN I AM JADE THERE IS ONLY PEACE ONLY LOVE

C'MON WEIST-TACK!
I TOLD YOU ALL THIS BEFORE--I
THUNK
THINK!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
I HAVE A LIST OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUPPLIED WEAPONS TO CHESHIRE...
...YOU ARE THIRD ON MY LIST.
THE FIRST TWO ALSO CLAIMED THEY DIDN'T KNOW
IF YOU TALK, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE R BUSINESS
UNDERSTAND?
SHE'LL KILL ME
AND I'M GOING TO PLAY CAT'S CRADLE WITH YOU?
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL TALK.
THERE--I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING. ARE YOU GOING TO JUST LEAVE ME HERE?
YOU'LL PRY YOURSELF LOOSE, SCUM
SEE YOU IN THE SEWERS SOME-DAY
THEY'RE SCUM, SO THEY THINK EVERYONE IS.
THANK GOD THEY BELIEVE THE WORST.

OKAY, OKAY, NOW IT'S TIME FOR CHESHIRE
MY HANDS ARE STARTING TO SWEAT UP MY GLOVES.
I'M ACTUALLY NERVOUS CALM DOWN, HARPER
SWANIGAN
IMPORT & EXPORT
DICK.. MAYBE I SHOULD CALL DICK.
YEAH...
HI, DICK, IT'S ME
I'M SORRY-- I'M SORRY! LOOK, JUST LISTEN FOR A CHANGE, HUH
MY C.B.I. CONTACT TOLD ME HE KNOWS WHERE CHESHIRE'S HIDING OUT
LET'S MEET OKAY? HOW ABOUT 5:00 AM.?
AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM. THEN WE'LL HEAD OUT
NO. I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT HER LAST KILL. GOD, I'M SORRY BUT WE'LL GET HER NOW, DICK
SEE YOU THEN
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE HE'S SUSPICIOUS
HE'S TOO SMART...HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING.
DAMN... I CAN'T WAIT FOR HIM.
KORY? YEAH, I MISS YOU, TOO. CALL THE OTHERS, PLEASE, THEN GET BACK TO ME WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER
I NEED TO SPEAK TO ALL OF YOU


WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG ?
THEY SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO THE TOWER BY NOW
DAMN I HATE WAITI--
RRRING66
THANK GOD
SORRY ? I WAS STARTING TO WORRY
YEAH, SOMETHING'S WRONG NO. I DON'T THINK YOU GUYS NEED TO COME
...ANYWAY, SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON.
ROY WAS HURT, AND HE JUST CALLED, BUT I DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE.
SOMETHING SCREWY'S GOING ON AND I NEED YOU GUYS TO CHECK IT OUT FOR ME STAT!
MAYBE HE FOUND SOME GIRL YOU KNOW ROY
OH, DICK, IF HE HAS, SEE IF SHE A SISTER OR SOMETHING
OH BROTHER I'M GONNA PUKE
IF THAT'S ALL IT'S, BAR I'LL DO THAT
GOD, THINGS WERE GETTING SO TENSE-- I NEEDED A LAUGH THANKS
ANYWAY--
DICK--?
YEAH WHAT'S IT, JANNY ?
YOU SAY ROY GOT ALL HIS INFO FROM THE C.B.I ?
YEAH
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
ROY HARPER WAS FIRED BY THE C.B.I. TWO MONTHS AGO.
HE DOESN'T WORK FOR THEM ANYMORE
TO BE CONTINUED

DC COMICS INC.
555 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10153

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Dear Action

Question: How do you take a fantastic hero, and my favorite, Blackhawk, and transform him from a commercial failure into a success?

A) You could have a big-time writer/artist like, say, Howard Chaykin, do a flashy mini-series revitalizing the character brilliantly.

B) You could give him a series in an anthology book, so that he wouldn't have to carry the whole title by himself. Maybe war comics don't sell, but if a book is five-sixths the super-heroes and one-sixth period adventure, people may buy it anyway.

C) Since war currently seems to sell if it's the Vietnam war, you could set the character in Vietnam. However, you might put him in Vietnam circa 1947, a time period no other comic is exploring. Blackhawk could have the same sort of picaresque adventures as Terri Lee, Pat Ryan, or Steve Canyon, without becoming embroiled in a controversial, ambiguous war.

D) You could get a big-name writer like Mike Grell to write the series. Someone who has proved himself in the past and could do his usual fantastic job on this character.

E) You could get a pair of artists like Rick Burchett and Pablo Marcos to give the series its own distinctive look. Being set 40 years before anything else in ACW, Blackhawk must look different. The opening sequences should set the stage historically, with a cinematic montage. Once the story gets underway, the action should move smoothly from panel to panel and the layouts could be the most innovative in the whole book while still maintaining the period" feel.

The answer is, F) All of the above. You guys have done more than well by my most favorite hero ever. Congratulations.

Andrew M. Kaplan
3615 S.E. Main
Portland, OR 97214

Well sure, Andy, we could have done all those things—and we did, so there.

• • • • •

Dear Mike,

With several issues of ACW now out it is easier to comment on the way the various features are going as well as the book as a whole.

Starting with the star, Superman who you could say is now more of a white dwarf star. Doing the two pages as a Sunday comics style layout isn't bad, but it should run in the center. The way it was run in issue #603 didn't work that well, due to the two pages being run out of alignment.

The other star, Green Lantern, looks great with Gil Kane artwork, and the Jim Owsley storyline is good too. However, the series has a tendency to suddenly lurch into high-speed action, as if some panels had been deleted from the story.

The biggest disappointment is Blackhawk. Howard Chaykin's mini-series had great-looking covers, but his revamping of the characters didn't sit well with me. Nor does this attempt to continue that version of Blackhawk in the postwar years. If given my druthers, I'd rather see Mark Evanier and Dan Spiegle do the character as they did five years ago and have Mike Grell create a new character. In fact, we'd all be better off with a reprint of "Black 'n Blue Hawk" from the comic book days of *Mad*.

Runner-up in the disappointment department is the Secret Six, or perhaps that mean-spirited nickname "The Secret Crips" should be used. At least E. Nelson Bridwell (who isn't credited as series creator) had various swords to hang over the members' heads, as well as having one of those members be Mockingbird. But now each new member has a physical handicap, and having Mockingbird be one of these six is out (or is going to require a major amount of suspension of disbelief).

Wild Dog is the one feature with which I have no bones to pick. Max Collins and Terry Beatty are good at doing serials, witness their excellent work on *Ms. Tree*, and Max's writing of the *Dick Tracy* comic strip. Consider that with the exception of the first issue "recap," Wild Dog has yet to appear in costume, but things are still happening, the plot is still moving forward and there is a bit of tension to the story.

The best surprise for me has been Deadman. After giving up on Mike Baron as a writer after reading his current work on FLASH and *The Punisher*, I thought that the first chapter of Deadman being good was just a fluke, even the second chapter. But with the third installment, the equivalent of a 24 page story, it appears that Baron may not be that bad a writer. The storyline is moving forward, has good twists and isn't getting bogged down in bad characterization. Perhaps the attitude of Boston Brand is particularly suited to Baron. The art by Dan Jurgens and Tony DeZuniga is also very good.

Quickly recapping, a "thumbs up" on Superman, but either put him in the center or give him more pages. "Thumbs up" for Green Lantern, but please have Jim Owsley slow down the pace. "Thumbs up" for Deadman and Wild Dog as well. "Thumbs down," though, for Secret Six, which falls far short of the original, and finally, *major* "thumbs down" for Blackhawk. On the whole, a "thumbs up" vote for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY as a whole, but let's see a new series debut here soon.

Hurricane Heeran
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Sorry to hear that you were so disappointed in Blackhawk, Hurricane, especially as it is proving to be our most popular feature. Perhaps you and Andy Kaplan could work this out.

As for your nickname for The Secret Six, let's not—okay?

• • • • •

Dear Mike,

Just finished ACW #604 and once again enjoyed every strip, although some more than others. The various stories are still suffering from what seems to be a need to cram a little bit of action and a cliff-hanger ending into each and every issue, and I maintain that's just not necessary. Still, a varied mix of material is making for a pretty good comic.

Of all the stories in ACW, I'd say that the one that least belongs is Green Lantern; the character needs his own monthly book. Hal Jordan belongs in his own comic and, with the right creative team, could easily keep one going. We have so far seen four very rushed segments of story. If this had been in a monthly comic, we'd no doubt have seen Katma's death at the end of the first issue, with Hal's fight with Star Sapphire taking the next issue, then John's trial and Hal's other-planet battle an issue later. Instead, the way everything's packed into these eight-page segments just doesn't scan well.

Also, while Gil Kane is a great artist and Don Simpson one of the best new talents around, the combination was awful. Either get Gil's best work or find another artist.

Wild Dog, by contrast, is in his element. Max and Terry are masters at stories in chapters and it shows here. Each eight-page chapter is great on its own but ties in with the preceding and following episodes. It's also nice to see Terry's art in the same title as Dan Spiegle—two underrated, excellent storytellers together. I also like the

social and relevant commentary in the WD strip

Deadman reads like pure Mike Baron—it could almost be Judah or Horatio in the costume! Mike's not quite comfortable with the Eastern philosophy bit yet, it seems, but it's coming

Finally, Blackhawk is great. Rick's art is lovely, and Mike Grell is reveling in his world of sexual innuendo. The last couple of pages, in fact all eight, of chapter four of "Another Fine War" were brilliant

This is costing me a fortune in postage! Take care.

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood, London NW2 1HU
ENGLAND

But it's a fortune well spent, isn't it, Malcolm? Particularly when that postage goes toward bringing your ever-thoughtful, insightful missives to us and your fellow readers.

Judah and Horatio who??

* * * * *

Dear Mr. Gold,

It won't work! I'm sorry, it just won't work! I've tried rating these stories against each other and I've had one hell of a ... (oops, sorry! You can't say "hell" on a letters page, can you?) ... I had a devil of a ... (oops, again, I wouldn't want the Moral Majority, or is it minority, to accuse us of being under the control of ... could it be ... *Satan?*—YIPE!) ... I had a very hard time trying to arrange the stories in order of most to least favorite. It was very frustrating

Why? Simply because sometimes I felt that two or three stories were equally good. Somehow I managed to arrange the stories in ACW #601 in this one-to-six order, then tragedy struck—#602!

Some stories maintained their level and pace, but others picked up pace and moved up a notch or two. Still others excited me, though nothing was really happening yet. It was impossible to fairly rate them on the one-to-six scale

I suggest you either rate each on a scale of one to ten (ten being excellent—one being not so hot) or rate each story on a variety of things: plot, writing, art, style, and so forth.

Right now, it's as unfair as the Oscars, pitting *Gandhi* against *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. It's apples and oranges—better to rate each story against itself from week to week

I admit to being apprehensive about the anthology idea, but seeing it in action (eek! a pun!) has quieted any fears I could have had. It is very exciting to see how well it works. Congratulations for having the courage and the common sense to take the gamble. You should all pat yourselves on the back for doing one hell ... *swell* job. Thanks.

Steven J. Henna
3253 Foxhill Dr
Clearwater, FL 34621

In a way, Steven, we're kinda glad you can't rate the various strips in ACW, if you're enjoying the entire package—there's no rule that says you've got to vote. Thoughtful letters are encouraged and welcomed.

And the official ruling is: No, you may not say "hell" in a letter column—sorry

* * * * *

While Steven may have had trouble ranking our ACTION features, many of you did not. Without any kind of ado, let's get to that list

THE ACTION COMICS WEEKLY POLL

Features are ranked according to your votes. Previous week's standing is shown in parenthesis.

1. Blackhawk (1)
2. Green Lantern (2)
3. Wild Dog (4)
4. Deadman (3)
5. Secret Six (4)
6. Superman (6)

Thanks for your votes, keep those lists and letters coming.

* * * * *

And now ... a very special letter from T M. Maple.

Dear Actioneers.

You can't fool me! I know that Wild Dog isn't dead at the end of his episode in #604! I know that because ... because you say there's going to be a fifth part next issue—and it'd be pretty darn boring (or, at least superfluous) if Wild Dog was dead all through it!

But say, if Wild Dog *is* dead, you could rename him Dead Dog and then team him with Deadman! It'd be a *natural!* In fact, they'd probably make a good permanent team. After all, we all know a man's best friend is his dog—so it only makes *sense* that a Deadman's best friend would be a Dead Dog!

But getting back to the Dead D ... er, to the *Wild* Dog story in #604, it showed the grim face of fanaticism. The death that the "crusaders" caused is a mark of their fanaticism. They would justify that killing in two basic ways: first, that their crusade is more important than one person's life, and second, that the person was "scum" who did not deserve to live. Both "justifications" are frightening, both in their effect and in how they show how seriously the crusaders have misinterpreted and corrupted their own crusade.

Essentially, they are crusading for the dignity of human beings (or what they *perceive* to be dignity and the ways to achieve it), but both "justifications" deny that dignity. The first places their ideal above the human beings that the ideal was meant to ennoble. Sure, sometimes individuals *must* be sacrificed to a cause—but not so cavalierly as was done here, not with so little concern or pain

The second "justification" condemns a person forever for acts he has committed. It does not *allow* for any chance of redemption, nor indeed for any chance of revelation or change in the future. Though the crusaders "know" humans—all humans—to be fallible and sinful, it allows for no possibility of error on their part and no room for forgiveness of a sin—either their own or others. I guess a fanatic is someone who serves a cause even when it goes against their own goals—or what *should* be their own goals, in any case

Yours truly
Jim Burke
A.K.A. "T.M. Maple"
Ontario
CANADA

P.S. No, your eyes do not deceive you (nor do I)! I did sign my real name and I did it on purpose. Of course, there can only be one reason for this: I've gone *totally* nuts! But seriously, my tenth Maple anniversary has come and gone and I decided that the time for my secret I.D. had also departed.

WOW! "T.M. Maple" unmasks right here—after all these years! And I don't mean to brag, but I figured out that it was Jim Burke, years ago. Well, this is really excit ... hey! Wait a minute, he's been hiding behind one fake name for ten years, why should we believe him now? Well, I for one am not buyin'. Sort of "the boy who cried maple," eh, T.M.? Happy belated anniversary, though.

* * * * *

NEXT WEEK: All the excitement you've come to expect from ACW and more! Plus a cover by Alex Toth!

—Brian Augustyn

* * * * * VOTE! * * * * *

Just as soon as you've finished this issue of ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, write us a letter or a postcard and rank this issue's stories in order of preference, the one you like the most first, the one you liked next second, and so on. Each week, we'll tally the vote and print the results right here in our letter column. Your opinion counts, so VOTE

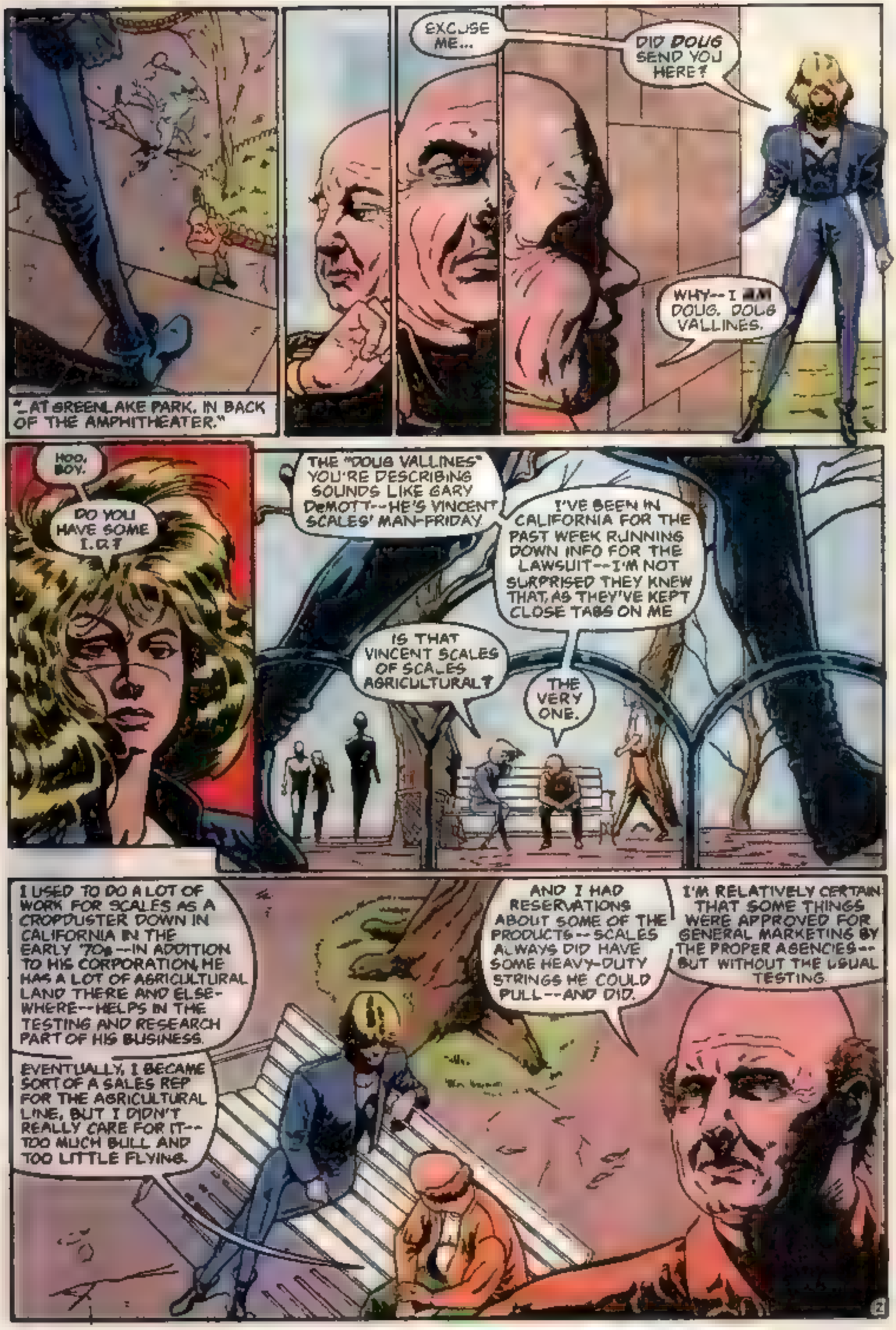
Send your ballots to:

Action Comics Weekly
Department 615
DC Comics Inc
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

BLACK CANARY™

BITTER FRUIT
PART 7

SHARON WRIGHT	WRITER	STEVE HAYNIE	LETTERER
RANDY DUBURKE	PENCILLER	GENE D'ANGELO	COLORIST
PABLO MARCOS	INKER	MIKE GOLD	EDITOR


"...AT GREEN LAKE PARK, IN BACK OF THE AMPHITHEATER."
EXCUSE ME...
DID DOUG SEND YOU HERE?
WHY--I AM DOUG. DOUG VALLINES.
WOO, BOY.
DO YOU HAVE SOME I.D.?
THE "DOUG VALLINES" YOU'RE DESCRIBING SOUNDS LIKE GARY DeMOTT--HE'S VINCENT SCALES' MAN-FRIDAY.
I'VE BEEN IN CALIFORNIA FOR THE PAST WEEK RUNNING DOWN INFO FOR THE LAWSUIT--I'M NOT SURPRISED THEY KNEW THAT, AS THEY'VE KEPT CLOSE TABS ON ME
IS THAT VINCENT SCALES OF SCALES AGRICULTURAL?
THE VERY ONE.
I USED TO DO A LOT OF WORK FOR SCALES AS A CROPDUSTER DOWN IN CALIFORNIA IN THE EARLY '70s--IN ADDITION TO HIS CORPORATION, HE HAS A LOT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND THERE AND ELSEWHERE--HELPS IN THE TESTING AND RESEARCH PART OF HIS BUSINESS.
EVENTUALLY, I BECAME SORT OF A SALES REP FOR THE AGRICULTURAL LINE, BUT I DIDN'T REALLY CARE FOR IT--TOO MUCH BULL AND TOO LITTLE FLYING.
AND I HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT SOME OF THE PRODUCTS--SCALES ALWAYS DID HAVE SOME HEAVY-DUTY STRINGS HE COULD PULL--AND DID.
I'M RELATIVELY CERTAIN THAT SOME THINGS WERE APPROVED FOR GENERAL MARKETING BY THE PROPER AGENCIES--BUT WITHOUT THE USUAL TESTING.
2

WELL, ANYWAY...I JUMPED AT A POSITION WITH ONE OF THE PRIVATE AIRLINES AND LEFT SCALES AGRICULTURE BEHIND
OR THOUGHT I DID--THIS YEAR I FAILED MY PILOT PHYSICAL FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST AIRLINES, AND THEY GROUNDED ME
TURNS OUT I HAVE SOME DEGENERATIVE NERVE DAMAGE THAT AFFECTS SOME OF MY PERCEPTIONS, AND RECURRING INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS--LUNGS THEMSELVES ARE GETTING TOUGHER, TOO, LIKE WITH EMPHYSEMA.
SOUNDS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO WHAT HECTOR LIBRADO HAS SUFFERED FROM FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS
YEAH--I KNEW HE WAS IN SEATTLE AND I'VE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE HIM TO CONFIRM MY SUSPICIONS.
MY LAWYER, BARRY NEIMAN FINALLY FOUND H.M.
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO *PROVE* IT, BUT I KNOW THE FEW YEARS OF EXPOSURE TO SCALES' PRODUCTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY CONDITION--AND I'M SUING SCALES FOR COMPENSATION
MY SUSPICION IS THAT THEY WERE AFRAID YOU'D FIND LIBRADO AND COMBINE FORCES--BUT WHY RESORT TO *MURDER* JUST ON THE *POSSIBILITY* THAT IT WILL WEAKEN YOUR CASE?
BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING MORE RIDING ON THIS --THERE *HAS* TO BE!

I'M TAKING A CHANCE BEING IN SEATTLE RIGHT NOW, BUT THERE'S MORE AT STAKE HERE THAN A SINGLE LAWSUIT...
..FORTUNATELY, ONE OF OUR POSSIBLE RISKS WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF...
"..ALMOST.."
"..ANY.."
"..TIME.."
FUP FUP
"..NOW."

CALON HOSPIT
EXCUSE ME, MS. LANCE...
...IT'S MR. LIBRADO --HE'S...FAILING.
THE FAMILY IS IN WITH HIM, BUT I CAN'T LET--!
I UNDERSTAND-- TELL THEM I WAS IN, AND TO CALL ME IF THERE'S ANYTHING...
I'M SORRY-- HECTOR LIBRADO IS IN I.C.U.-- NO VISITORS.
WHEN DID HE GO UP TO I.C.U.? HE WAS--!
HE LAPSED INTO A COMA TWO DAYS AGO.
EXIT

MS. WAVERLY? IT'S--
CREAK
OH, MY LORD!
HEY--!
EXIT

WAIT!
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT--I JUST CAME TO DELIVER A PACKAGE.
I'VE NOTHING TO HIDE--IF THE POLICE WISHES TO FIND ME TO QUESTION ME OR TO HAVE ME MAKE A STATEMENT--THIS IS MY CARD.
MAN, FIRST LIBRADO... NOW THIS--IT JUST GETS WEIRDER ALL THE TIME.
THEY ARE REALLY CLOSING THE NET--HELLO, DOUG? BARRY--
GET THIS, DOUG--THE I.N.S WOMAN, ELLEN WAVERLY?
SHE'S DEAD ...KILLED.
AND LIBRADO'S--
DEAD. JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO --I CALLED THE HOSPITAL.
THAT'S IT, BARRY--HE'S NOT GETTING AWAY WITH THIS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M GOING AFTER HIM. SCREW IT.
DOUG, YOU--!
HIS BOAT'S NOT AT THE MARINA...I KNOW WHERE HE WENT.
DOUG, DON'T!
KLK
HE'S GOING AFTER SCALES.
I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!

Concluded Next Week